

# After Thoughts

AfterThoughts is an occasional publication of After Hours Macintosh Consulting. An independent Apple Macintosh™ service firm in North Carolina's Triangle (Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill). For subscription information via email: [info@afterhoursconsulting.org](mailto:info@afterhoursconsulting.org) <http://www.afterhoursconsulting.org/> (919-271-7479 voice, 810-816-6707 fax)

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## NEWS

Spring is at full steam and what a wonderful season. The Redbuds and Daffodils are just about done but the Dogwoods are at full peak, and the trees are filling out their limbs. With Spring comes some innate drive to clean and spruce up your environment. Here at the office, we've been doing our part: we've cleaned out the refrigerator, tossed a ton of old boxes into the recycling bin, and worked on streamlining the production Mac's hard drive with updates and new software. Here is what we've found:

OS 9! We've been running 9 on one production computer since the beginning of the year. And I have to say, this is the most stable new release of a system version since 7.6.1. No crashes, nary a bug to be found, and only a handful of updates required of our favorite packages (ATM Deluxe 4.52 and Type Reunion require update patches to function properly). We are so happy with OS 9, we've just finished upgrading the G3, the PowerBook and even the 6100 with it. Now, the 6100 runs a little slow on OS 9 compared to 7.6.1, but the newer Sherlock and other features are spectacular. One recommendation: install the latest OS 9 update (v9.04 as of this writing) and one caution: even stripped down of unnecessary components, OS 9 takes at least 15 Mb of RAM and several hundred Mb hard drive space on a normal system. With RAM having dropped back to reasonable pricing over the last eight weeks, using OS 9 is now far less expensive and well worth considering. Note: some older apps may not work well with 9 -- we'd be happy to review your system and test your programs prior to installation. Links to Apple's website: <http://www.afterhoursconsulting.org/links.html>

Other updates -- Many software companies have kept pace with Apple's newest release: Quark 4.1, Acrobat 4.0 updates, Canvas 7.01, Netscape Navigator 4.72, Internet Explorer 5, Outlook Express 5.02, Graphic Converter 3.8, Toast 4, Quicken 2000 R3 are just a few recent releases and well worth installing.

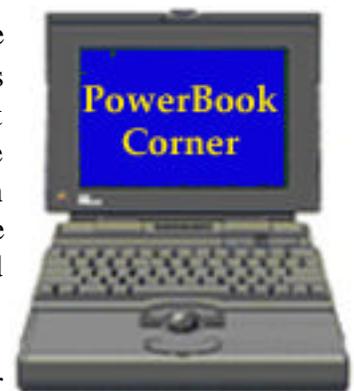
## *Frequently Asked Questions*

- **FAQ:** I've always used scraps of paper and spreadsheets to figure out my taxes. Is there an easier way, especially with **April 15th** always on my mind?
- **AH:** Certainly. There are a number of good home and business tax accounting packages available for the Mac, and not just for the Ides of April. Specifically for taxes: **Quicken, Macintax, Kiplinger TaxCut & QuickBooks** users have some nifty options in those packages for easing the tax paperwork burden. Determining which one is best for you is usually a matter of personal taste. And even if you don't do your taxes by computer, the IRS has made obtaining tax forms and instructions easily available on CD. See our FAQs webpage for more information:

<http://www.afterhoursconsulting.org/faqs.html>

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**The PBC:** Yes, there are even newer PowerBooks now available: the latest iBook (Pismo) and the PowerBook G3 with FireWire both fly! The Question begs: do you need this much power?



Frankly, the casual user might not. But for those of you who need to do presentations on the road, produce film, animation, websites, or database development or management, the speed is an appreciable asset. And for those of you waiting to use OS X (10), only the G3-based Macs or newer will be able to run on it. Or, having the fastest laptop on the planet may be reason enough.. For more info, visit: <http://www.apple.com>

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